

# Livestock & Dairy

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Wisconsin's milk production dipped slightly in 2002, as record-high milk per cow did not offset the lower number of milk cows. Milk production totaled 22.1 billion pounds to rank the state second in the U.S. The state's share of national production dropped to 13 percent, down from 16 percent ten years ago. Milk prices averaged \$12.20 per hundredweight, down \$2.60 from 2001.

Total cheese production climbed to a record high 2.24 billion pounds in 2002. Both American and Italian-type cheeses increased from the previous year. The 748 million pounds of Mozzarella accounted for a third of the total state cheese production. Specialty cheese production rose 20 percent from the previous year to total 281 million pounds. Wisconsin's 116 cheese plants produced 26 percent of the U.S. cheese to lead the nation.

Butter production totaled 343 million pounds last year, the largest amount since 1992. Production from the 11 butter plants ranked Wisconsin second in the nation.

Cattle and calves totaled 3.30 million head on January 1, 2003, unchanged from the previous year. Increases in beef cattle offset the decline in milk cows. Slaughter prices per hundred pounds averaged \$49.40 for cattle and \$129 for calves, both declines from 2001.

Hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms declined to a record low of 520,000 head as of December 1, 2002. Hog prices for the year averaged \$28.70 per hundred pounds, the lowest since 1999. Cash receipts from hogs and pigs of \$83.9 million placed Wisconsin 17th in the nation.

Sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2003, held steady at 80,000 head. Compared to 2001, lamb prices jumped 16 percent to \$71.80 per hundred pounds. Wool prices also increased, but remained well below historical levels.

Egg production declined 6 percent to 1.16 billion for the year, ending November 30, 2002. Egg prices increased slightly to 51.1 cents per dozen, which brings the value of production to \$49.3 million.

Broiler production increased in 2002, but broiler prices fell. Quantity produced totaled 145 million pounds, up 6 percent. The 30-cent per pound average price dropped 9 cents from 2001. Value of production totaled \$43.6 million.

Mink pelt production totaled 685,000 pelts for Wisconsin in 2002. The average pelt price at the national level fell 9 percent to \$30.60. The state's producers accounted for 26 percent of the U.S. production.

Honey production climbed to 6.65 million pounds, up 23 percent from 2001. Honey prices averaged \$1.30 per pound, and the value of the honey crop reached \$8.65 million, both record highs. Wisconsin ranks eighth in the nation for honey production.

Trout producers reported \$1.76 million in sales during 2002, down 4 percent from 2001. In addition to sales, about 6.65 million trout were distributed for restoration or conservation uses, valued at \$2.01 million.